The Question of" Tawassul' in Du'aa

Question: Is it permissible to make du'aa using the Ambiyaa عليهم السلام or the Auliyaa as a mediums? Is it permissible to say in one's du'aa, "By the *Haqq* (right) of such a person" or "By the sacredness of such a person"?

Answer: It is both permissible and Masnoon to use a medium when making du'aa by saying things such as, "O Allaah! Have mercy on my situation through the medium of such-and-such a Nabi or saint". This is a very effective manner of having du'aas accepted. In fact, Tirmidhi and other books of Ahadeeth report that Rasulullaah ρ actually taught a Sahabi τ to make du'aa in this manner. Rasulullaah ρ taught him to make du'aa saying: "O Allaah! I ask You and turn towards You by the medium of Muhammad ρ who is Your Nabi of mercy."[1]

A narration of *Mishkaat* states that it was the practice of Hadhrat Umar τ that whenever there was a drought, he would pray for rain using the medium of Hadhrat Abbaas τ. He would say, "O Allaah! We used to use the medium of Your Nabi ρ to pray to You and You would send us rain. We are now asking You through the medium of the uncle of our Nabi ρ, so please send rain to us." Rain would then come showering down[2].

Our elders have always favoured such du'aas with mediums. Hadhrat Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi رحمه الله writes: "Amongst the people of Tasawwuf, making du'aa through the medium of Allaah's chosen servants is very popular. This is substantiated by the Ahadeeth. A narration in Mishkaat from Hadhrat Umayyah τ states that on the occasion of the conquest of Makkah, Rasulullaah ρ made du'aa using the medium of the poor Muhaajireen."[3]

He also writes: "It is quite in order to make du'aa through the medium of Allaah's accepted servants, whether they be alive or deceased. The Ahadeeth report the incident of Hadhrat Umar τ using the medium of Hadhrat Abbaas τ when making du'aa for rain and also reported is the incident of the blind person making du'aa using the medium of Rasulullaah ρ. There is therefore no doubt about the permissibility of this."[4]

Sheikhul Islaam Hadhrat Moulana Madani رحمه الله writes: "Using the medium of Rasulullaah ρ(when making du'aa) was not confined to the period when he was alive but can be made even while he is in the realm of Barzakh (in the grave). Reaching the true Beloved (Allaah) and pleasing Him can be done only through the medium of Rasulullaah ρ."[5]

A medium is really Allaah's mercy that He blesses His chosen servants with. Therefore, when someone makes du'aa through the medium of a saint, it is this special mercy that Allaah blesses them with that is actually regarded as the medium (the vehicle to carry the supplication). **Using a medium is not permissible when a being other than Allaah (the medium) is regarded as being the one**

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[1] Tirmidhi (Vol.2 Pg.197), *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.219), *Hisnul Haseen* Pg.151, Ibn Maajah (Pg.100).
[2] *Mishkaatul Masaabeeh* (Pg.132), reporting from Bukhaari.
[3] *Takashuf* Pg. 446.
[4] *Imdaadul Fataawaa* (Vol.4 Pg.326).
[5] *Maktoobaat Sheikhul Islaam* (Pgs.129,130).

rendering the assistance that is sought. It is wrong to believe that the medium will fulfil the need.

It is correct to use phrases such as "By the intervention of such a person", "By the sacredness of such a person" or "By the status of such a person". While it is also permissible to say, "By the *Haqq* (right) of such a person", some scholars disagree, citing the Hadith "The creation cannot be given a *Haqq* (right) over that of Allaah's right". This argument is however unsound.

Rasulullaah ρ has also stated that when leaving his home for salaah, a person's du'aa is accepted when he says, "O Allaah! I am asking you for the reward of this salaah by the right that all begging from You have."

Hadhrat Shah Abdul Azeez Muhaddith Dehlawi رحمه الله quotes a narration from Hadhrat Umar τ as reported by Tabraani in his *Mu'jamus Sagheer*, Haakim, Abu Nu'aym and Bayhaqi. The narration from Rasulullaah ρ states that when Hadhrat Aadam υ erred, he repented using Rasulullaah ρ as a medium. He said, "O Allaah! I beg You by the *Haqq* of Muhammad ρ to forgive me." Allaah then forgave him.[6]

Hadhrat Imaam Rabbaani Mujaddid Alf Thaani رحمه الله used to make du'aa saying, "O Allaah! By the *Haqq* of the Nabi of Faatima رضي الله عنها do I ask You to give me death with Imaan. Whether you accept or reject my du'aa, I am satisfied with clinging to the hem of the family of Muhammadur Rasulullaah ρ."[7]

And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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[6] *Fat'hul Azeez* Pg. 183.
[7] *Maktoobaat* (Vol.2 Pg.64).